

EXMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1949

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P. H. DEPT.
EXMOUTH.

I N D E X.

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EXMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Department,
Templetown Lodge,
Esplanade,
Exmouth.

PH/2109/4.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE
YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1949.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1949.

In general the health of the Community may be considered to have been satisfactory and no major outbreaks of infectious diseases occurred. The cases of Scarlet Fever which occurred were sporadic and of an exceedingly mild type. That there was no cases of Diphtheria for the third year running is worthy of note but the public are warned that only by immunisation of all children under 1 year of age followed up by reinforcing injections at 5 years and 10 years of age can we expect to maintain this control over what is one of the most serious diseases of early life.

The live birth rate, although below that for England & Wales as a whole, rose slightly over that for the previous year. The death rate also showed a slight rise over 1948 but after allowance has been made of the relatively high proportion of elderly people residing in the town the standardised death rate is seen to be lower than that for the country as a whole.

1949 was marked by the exceedingly low rainfall during the early part of the year and we were fortunate in Exmouth in being able to make use of the partially completed borehole at Dotton to supplement the existing supply. The Council are to be congratulated on their wisdom in pushing ahead with all possible speed the sinking of the new borehole at Dotton for without the additional water from that new source Exmouth might have suffered from a shortage of water as did many other districts throughout the country.

With regard to housing it is with great pleasure that I report that 86 families were placed in new council houses during 1949. However the great task of providing sufficient houses for the needs of the community is still far from complete, as evidenced by the fact that there are still some 500 applicants awaiting rehousing. That this Council are fully aware of their responsibilities in this great matter there is no doubt whatever and it is only limitations on building necessitated by shortage of material and labour together with the restrictions imposed on the Council by higher authority which prevents the problem being solved even more expeditiously.

In conclusion I would like to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Exmouth Urban District Council and to the members of the staff for the ready help and co-operation given to me during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

L. C. Anderson

Medical Officer of Health.

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health.

L.G. ANDERSON, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer.

MR. E.A.C. LONG, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

MR. K.W. CLEMENT, Cert.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Engineer, Surveyor and Water Engineer.

MR. R.J. HUMPHREYS, M.I., Mun.E., M.R.San.I.

Deputy Engineer, Surveyor and Water Engineer.

MR. B.K. WARNER, S.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.W.E
(until the 24th October, 1949)

Deputy Surveyor.

MR. W.J. WHITSED
(as from 1st November, 1949)

Clerk to Medical Officer of Health & Sanitary Inspector.

MISS J.E. MUTTER.

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1. STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	5,295
Resident Population Mid. Year 1949 (as estimated by the Registrar General)...	16,860
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1949)...	5,227
Rateable value (end of 1949)...	£181,001
Product of a penny rate (March 1949)...	£740

2. VITAL STATISTICS.(a) Live Births.

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	127	106	233
Illegitimate	5	5	10
Total	132	111	243

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population... 14.4

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population

England & Wales..... 16.7

(b) Still births.

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	2	2	4

Still birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population... 0.24

Still birth rate per 1,000 total live births.....16.3

Still birth rate per 1,000 civilian population

England & Wales..... 0.39

(c) Deaths.

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
124	159	283

Corrected death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population..16.8

Standardised death rate per 1,000 estimated resident

population..11.2

Death rate per 1,000 civilian population England & Wales.....11.7

Deaths from puerperal causes..... Nil

(d) Infant Mortality.
(Deaths of infants under 1 year of age.)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	5	1	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	5	1	6

Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births..... 24.6
 Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births England & Wales. 32.0

3. LIVE BIRTH RATE.

During 1949, 132 male and 111 female (total 243) children were born, which is 8 more male but 6 fewer female births than in the previous year. The live birth rate of 14.4 was higher than that of the previous year but is still below that for England & Wales (16.7)

The table below shows the birth rates during the last 10 years:-

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Exmouth	7.8	8.5	12.6	14.8	15.8	15.2	18.6	16.2	14.2	14.4
England & Wales	14.6	14.2	15.8	16.5	17.6	16.1	19.1	20.5	17.9	16.7

4. ILLEGITIMATE BIRTH RATE.

Of the 243 children born during 1949, 10 were illegitimate, i.e. 3 fewer than in the previous year. It is gratifying to record that the illegitimate birth rate continues to fall and the rate for 1949 is the lowest for the last 10 years, viz:-

1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
65.0	71.0	81.0	90.0	110.0	109.0	72.2	60.7	54.2	41.2

5. STILL BIRTHS.

The still birth rate of 0.24 recorded for 1949 is not only lower than that for the previous year but is the lowest recorded since 1939. The actual number of children born dead was 4. The subjoined table shows the still birth rate per 1,000 civilian population for the last 10 years:-

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Exmouth	0.59	0.40	0.51	0.59	0.65	0.57	0.31	0.55	0.29	0.24
England & Wales	0.55	0.51	0.54	0.51	0.50	0.46	0.53	0.50	0.42	0.39

6. DEATHS.

In considering death rates it is desirable to outline briefly the various nomenclatures used in the recording thereof. There are three rates in common use at present, viz:-

(a) Crude death rate. By which is understood the rates between the number of deaths occurring in the district and the population of that district during a given period (usually one year), and the number of deaths is calculated per 1,000 of the population during that period.

(b) Corrected death rate. This represents the number of deaths per 1,000 of the population per year after deductions and additions have been made to the number of deaths for those which have occurred in the district in persons normally residing outside the district or those dying outside the district and normally residing within the district.

This is the rate which has been given in reports since 1940.

(c) Standardised death rate. It will be appreciated that mortality varies greatly with different age periods and any district in which there reside a relatively high proportion of elderly people will have a higher death rate than another district with a low proportion of such elderly persons.

Therefore before comparing the death rates of one locality with those of another it is necessary, before any correct conclusions can be drawn from the comparison, to eliminate the influence of unusual age and sex distribution of the population and this is done by multiplying the corrected death rate by a "standardising factor". The standardising factor is computed by the Registrar General and supplied to the individual local authorities each year.

Since 1939 the issue of standardising factors has been suspended, but the Registrar General is once again providing the necessary factors and in future death rates will be recorded as "standardised death rates".

During 1949, 283 persons normally residing in the urban district died (124 males 159 females) which represents a corrected death rate of 16.8, but which when allowance for age and sex distribution has been made represents a "standardised death rate" of 11.2. The rate is lower than the death rate of England & Wales as a whole (11.7).

The following table shows the corrected and standardised death rates for Exmouth for the last 10 years:-

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Corrected	16.1	17.8	24.2	19.5	18.3	18.8	19.8	18.0	15.0	16.8
Standardised	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11.2
England & Wales	14.3	12.9	11.6	12.1	11.6	11.4	11.5	12.0	10.8	11.7

(a) Causes of death.

The following table shows the causes of death (data supplied by the Registrar General).

Disease	Males	Females	Total
Whooping Cough	1	-	1
Tuberculosis			
Respiratory	5	2	7
Other Forms	-	-	-
Syphilis	-	1	1
Influenza	1	3	4
Cancer			
Mouth, gullet and uterus	3	3	6
Stomach and duodenum	6	2	8
Breast	1	5	6
All other sites	6	14	20
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	26	44	70
Heart Disease	33	50	83
Other diseases of the circulatory system	4	8	12
Bronchitis	7	8	15
Pneumonia	8	3	11
Other respiratory diseases	2	-	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	-	2
Appendicitis	1	1	2
Other digestive diseases	-	5	5
Prematurity, congenital Malformations, birth injuries, infant diseases	3	-	3
Suicide	-	1	1
Road Traffic Accidents	1	-	1
Other violent causes	3	2	5
All other causes	11	7	18
All cases	124	159	283

The most prevalent cause of death will be seen to be that of heart disease 83 cases (29.3%) followed closely by intra-cranial vascular lesions (cerebral haemorrhage etc.) 70 cases (24.7%), whilst cancer of the various organs of the body claimed 40 victims (14.1%).

(b) Age at death.

The average age at death during 1949 was 69.8 years and remains the same as recorded for the previous year.

The following table shows the average age at death during the last 10 years:-

1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
70	67	68	70	70	72	72	73	69.8	69.8

The following table shows the incidence of deaths at various age groups (from returns supplied by local Registrar of Births & Deaths).

Age Group	Males	Females	Total	Percentage
Under 1 year	5	1	6	2.12
1, and under 2 years	1	-	1	0.35
2 -	1	-	1	0.35
5 -	-	1	1	0.35
10 -	1	-	1	0.35
20 -	4	1	5	1.77
30 -	3	-	3	1.06
40 -	2	6	8	2.82
50 -	7	15	22	7.78
60 -	36	22	58	20.4
70 -	42	49	91	32.2
80 -	20	58	78	27.6
90 - 100	2	6	8	2.82
All ages.	124	159	283	

7. INFANT MORTALITY.

Six infants (5 male 1 female) under the age of one year died during 1949 and although this number represents a higher infant mortality rate than 1948 (viz. 24.6 : 16.6) it is worthy of note that the rate is considerably below that for England & Wales as a whole (32.0).

The infant mortality rate represents the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births.

The causes of deaths of these infants were as follows:-

Sex	Age	Causes of deaths.
M	2 days	Congenital malformation.
M	2 days	Prematurity
M	3 days	Congenital malformation.
F	17 days	Broncho-pneumonia - due to vomit accidentally inhaled.
M	11 weeks	Asphyxia due to vomit accidentally inhaled.
M	4 months	Broncho-pneumonia. (Inquest)

8. DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

	Males	Females	Total
Measles	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1 *	-	1
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Diarrhoea	-	-	-

* Complicated by Tuberculous broncho-pneumonia and Tuberculous Meningitis.

9. CANCER.

The incidence of deaths from Cancer decreased from 45 in 1948 (17.4% total deaths) to 40 (14.1% total deaths) in 1949.

The parts of the body affected are shown in the following table:-

	Males	Females	Total
Mouth & Gullet	3	-	3
Stomach & duodenum	6	2	8
Breast	1	5	6
Uterus	-	3	3
All other sites	6	14	20
Total	16	24	40

The incidence of deaths from Cancer during the last 10 years is as follows:-

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
No:of cases	28	53	34	54	39	40	68	40	45	40
Percentage Total No:of deaths.	9.65	20.6	11.8	18.3	18.7	18.7	21.0	18.5	17.4	14.1
Rate per 1,000 resident pop- ulation.	1.56	2.65	2.03	3.58	2.50	2.55	4.56	2.43	2.65	2.37

10. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The most prevalent infectious diseases notified during the year were Measles (42 cases), Whooping Cough (40 cases) and Scarlet Fever(19 cases).

Taken as a whole the incidence may be considered reasonably low and in fact the number of cases notified (108) was 59 fewer than in 1948. Measles showed a fall but Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever both were more prevalent in 1949 than 1948.

The incidence during 1949 of the various notifiable infectious diseases is tabulated herewith.

Disease	Cases Notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Deaths
Measles	42	-	-
Whooping Cough	40	1	1 xx
Scarlet Fever	19	3	-
Acute polio- encephalitis (Infantile Paralysis)	1	1	1 xxx
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Ac. Influenzal Pneumonia	3	-	-
Ac. Lobar Pneumonia	1	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Total	108	5	2

~~x~~ Complicated by Tuberculous broncho-pneumonia and Tuberculous Meningitis.

~~xxx~~ Not normally resident in the district.

The following table shows the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases grouped according to age:-

	Under 1 yr.	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-	Total
Measles	-	2	1	5	3	27	2	-	1	-	1	-	42
Whooping Cough	1	10	4	6	7	9	3	-	-	-	-	-	40
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	2	5	9	3	-	-	-	-	-	19
Acute Polio- encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Ac. Influenzal Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3
Ac. Lobar Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
All causes	1	12	5	13	15	45	8	1	2	1	3	2	108

Table showing the incidence (numbers notified) of various infectious diseases during the last 10 years.

Disease	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Measles	728	198	6	40	148	233	11	127	135	42
Whooping Cough	49	96	27	39	59	43	53	40	22	40
Scarlet Fever	44	53	17	7	25	6	13	2	5	19
Diphtheria	11	16	2	2	2	1	3	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	5	3	5	2	-	2	2	1	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	15	19	4	11	3	5	4	2	-	4
Erysipelas	4	6	4	4	4	4	-	1	1	1
Ac. Polio- encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

11. MEASLES.

The number of notifications of measles decreased from 135 in 1948 to 42 in 1949 and there were no deaths from the disease neither was it found necessary to admit any to the Isolation Hospital.

The seasonal incidence in Exmouth and in England & Wales as a whole was as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Exmouth	1	9	6	7	5	9	3	-	1	-	1	-
	16			21			4			1		
England & Wales	199,002			132,485			36,560			17,802		

12. DIPHTHERIA.

For the third consecutive year there has been no cases of Diphtheria notified in the Exmouth Urban District.

13. TUBERCULOSIS.

During 1949, 12 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified (7 males 5 females).

The age distribution of new cases, localisation of the disease and deaths from Tuberculosis during 1949 are as follows:-

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY		RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1								
1 -								
5 -			2					
15 -	2	2						
25 -	1	2			1			
35 -	1	1			2	1		
45 -						1		
55 -					1			
65 -	1				1			
All ages	5	5	2	-	5	2	-	-
	10		2		7		-	
	Total 12				Total 7			

The number of cases still on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year.

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	41	28	69
Non-Pulmonary	10	12	22
	51	40	91

On receipt of the notification of a case of Tuberculosis the housing conditions, milk supply etc. are investigated in collaboration with the County Tuberculosis Officer and where necessary appropriate recommendation made to the Housing Committee.

The incidence of new cases of Tuberculosis brought to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health during 1940 - 1949 inclusive is given in the following table:-

		1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
PULMONARY	M	5	6	2	10	7	5	8	11	4	5
	F	13	9	10	8	5	4	4	7	4	5
NON-PULMONARY	M	1	1	1	4	1	-	1	1	3	2
	F	1	1	1	3	3	2	-	4	1	-
TOTAL		20	17	14	25	16	11	13	23	12	12

14. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT.

The Health Services provided by the Local Health Authority (Devon County Council) under Part II and III of the Act as applicable to your district are briefly set out below.

PART II.

(a) HOSPITAL FACILITIES.

(i) General.

The Urban District is well served by the Exmouth Cottage Hospital, Claremont Grove, Exmouth (Phone Exmouth 2283) where there is accommodation for:-

Male 10 beds
 Female 16 beds
 Children 5 beds, 4 cots
 Private wards 8

In addition to the above use is made of:-

1. Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, Southernhay East (Phone 2261) - 324 beds.
2. Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Hospital, Buckereil Bore, Exeter, (Phone Exeter 54217) - 114 beds.
3. West of England Eye Infirmary, Magdalen Street, Exeter (Phone 3183) - 57 beds.

(ii) Maternity.

1. Poltimore Nursing Home - 12 beds.
2. Redhills House, St. Thomas, Exeter. (Public Assistance Institution).
3. Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital for complicated or difficult cases.

(iii) Isolation.

Cases of Infectious Diseases are admitted to the Exeter City Isolation Hospital, Whipton (Phone Exeter 67158) as in previous years.

I should like to record my sincere appreciation for the ready help and co-operation given at all times by the Medical Superintendant and Staff of that Hospital.

(iv) Smallpox.

A smallpox hospital of 28 beds at Upton Pyne administered by the Regional Hospital Board is available in case of need.

Should your Medical Officer of Health require the services of a consultant arrangements have been made to call upon

Dr. C. Seward, 20, West Southernhay, Exeter, or
Dr. W.J. Laird, City Hospital, Exeter.

(b) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Bacteriological and Serological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, 7, Dix's Field, Exeter (Tel.No. Exeter 54959), under the direction of Dr. B. Moore, whose ready co-operation and help I wish to acknowledge.

(c) VENEREAL DISEASE.

Under the present scheme free advice and treatment is available to all persons at the following Centre:-

	Males	Females.
<u>EXETER.</u>		
Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital.	Mon. 3 - 5 p.m. Fri. 6 - 8 p.m.	Mon. 6 - 7 p.m. Fri. 3 - 5 p.m.

(d) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

As from the 5th July, 1948, the Local Health Authority became responsible for the ambulance services in the area, and at their request the Exmouth St. Johns Ambulance Association agreed to act as their agents and continue the service commenced in 1936.

During 1949 the total number of calls received were 1,290, of which accident calls numbered 101, and 24,780 miles were travelled in the course of their duties.

Three ambulances are maintained at the Ambulance Station, Bastin Hall, Elm Grove, Exmouth (Tel. Exmouth 2857).

PART III.(e) CARE OF MOTHERS & YOUNG CHILDREN.

A Health Visitor - Miss Frayling - is assigned to this district and has one untrained nursing assistant working under her. Voluntary assistance is rendered at the various clinics by members of the B.R.C.S. and other helpers and such assistance is greatly appreciated.

The two Medical Officers who attend the Infant Welfare Centres are (a) Dr. Dawes of Budleigh Salterton, and (b) Dr. L.G. Anderson your Medical Officer of Health.

The Centres are held at St. Clements, Exeter Road, Exmouth, on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. During 1949 the following attendances were made.

Total No: of attendances of mothers.	Total No: of babies attending.	Total No: of Toddlers attending.
2743	2133	754
(of which 131 cases were first attendances).	(of which 108 were first attendances).	(of which 23 were first attendances).

Welfare Foods are supplied at the St. Clements Infant Welfare Centre on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.

(f) MATERNITY.

There are 4 District Nurse Midwives in this district viz:-

Nurse Snaith
Nurse Warne
Nurse Griffey
Nurse Newell

who reside at No. 2, Albion Hill, Exmouth, (Tel.Exmouth 2237). Each nurse is in possession of a motor car. All are fully trained in Gas and Oxygen analgesia and one apparatus is available for their use.

(g) CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.

When necessary, arrangements can be made for the admission of a premature baby and its mother to the nearest Maternity unit, in this case the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, Exeter.

(h) DENTAL CARE OF MOTHERS & YOUNG CHILDREN.

A well equipped dental surgery is provided at St. Clements, Exeter Road, at which dental treatment can be given to mothers and young children.

(i) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Immunisation against Diphtheria should be given at the age of 8 months and consists of a course of two injections of A.P.T given at one month's interval. The protection thus provided should be maintained by means of a single reinforcing injection at 5 years of age and a second single reinforcing injection at 10 years of age.

The immunisation can be given by the patient's own doctor, the Medical Officers attending the Infant Welfare Centres or by the Assistant Schools Medical Officers.

During 1949, 254 children received initial immunisation and 232 were given reinforcing injections.

15. WATER SUPPLY.

(a) Sources of supply.

The town continued to be supplied mainly from the borehole at Dotton, but during the year advantage was taken of the partially

completed additional borehole there to increase the supply from this source.

The catchment area at Squabmoor supplied water during the hours when the pumping machinery at Dotton was at rest.

(b) Quality.

The water has been very satisfactory in quality during the year and of the 12 bacteriological samples taken all were satisfactory. The last analysis is as follows:-

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER (Sampled 14.11.49)

- W.1698. High Filters, Exmouth Reservoir.
Probable number coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. = nil.
- W.1697. Lower Filters, Exmouth Reservoir.
Probable number coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. = nil.
- W.1518. East Budleigh Reservoir. (17.10.49)
Probable number coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. = nil.
- W.1699. Bystock Reservoir.
Probable number coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. = nil.
- W.1700. Borehole at Dotton.
Probable number coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. = nil.

The water from the catchment area at Squabmoor and Bystock has plumbo-solvent action but the Council's wise decision not to allow the installation of any lead services for drinking purposes has prevented any incidents or trouble in this direction.

(c) Quantity.

The demand during the exceptionally fine Summer Season was in excess of any experienced previously and extended the resources of the Undertaking to its absolute limit. It was possible, by working the maximum number of pumping hours, to avoid any restriction in the use of water but the completion of the Works approved by the Council is urgently required. Considerable progress has now been made and the sinking of the second borehole at Dotton was practically completed during the year. It is anticipated that the contracts for the construction of the new pipelines from Knowle Hill to the Capel Lane Works, and for the provision of the new 2,000,000 gallons capacity service reservoir at that point will be commenced in 1950.

(d) There are at present 5,227 properties connected to the main supply. During 1949, 86 connections were made.

16. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year, tenders have been accepted for the provision of the new electrically driven machinery at Sheppards Row Pumping Station and for the new Pumping Station at the foot of Hartopp Road. A new surface water sewer was commenced during the year to drain Marpool Hill.

17. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

These were inspected frequently to see that they were maintained in a clean and sanitary condition. The Council approved a scheme for the provision of three new Public Conveniences, two to be on the Sea Front and one to be in the Exeter Road area to replace the existing underground conveniences at Mona Island. Plans were prepared

for the first of the new Conveniences on the Sea Front near the Swimming Pool and an application was made to the Ministry of Health for permission to put the works in hand.

18. PUBLIC CLEANSING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Refuse has continued to be disposed of by means of controlled tipping at the King George V. Grounds and some nuisance has been caused at high tides through the lack of protection to the face of the tip. Plans were prepared and estimates obtained during 1947 for the construction of a steel piling wall around the limit of the area which the Council intend to reclaim. These plans were submitted to the Ministry of Health who refused the application on the grounds of shortage of steel. Further nuisances have arisen during 1949 from the washing away of bank and deposit of tins and other refuse on the beaches.

19. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Tabular statement furnished by the Senior Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer.

	<u>Number.</u>	<u>No. of Inspections.</u>
Premises visited, total number under sub-headings below.....	225	477
1. New Drains.....	8	17
2. Drains repaired.....	27	59
3. W.C's. reconstructed or repaired.....	14	37
4. House roofs repaired.....	13	28
5. House yard paving repaired.....	5	12
6. House walls and floors repaired.....	31	66
7. Other house repairs.....	42	91
8. Ashbins provided.....	16	33
9. Nuisances abated.....	69	134

Number of Informal notices served (general) 141

(In addition to the above, visits were made to various premises as shown under the following different headings).

20. DISINFECTION.

Disinfection of Beddings (lots)	17	
Disinfection of Premises	32	and 47 visits made.

21. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Number of Houses (Council) found to be infested.....	0
Number of Houses (other than Council) do.	4
Number of Houses -do.- disinfectd.....	4

For these 4 houses use was made of "Thermatox" and "Gammexane D 034".

22. CAMPING SITES.

The three camping sites in the area, licensed by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, were very well patronised and it is estimated that the maximum number of campers resident in the area at any one time during the summer season was 2,118, in 706 dwellings.

A constant lookout was kept for persons using unlicensed sites or dwellings and many visits were made to the few sites where

unauthorised dwellings were stationed before all details required could be obtained for presentation to the Council, action in relation to each case being taken after the Council's instructions had been received.

The actual number of visits and inspections in respect of the Licensed Camping Sites was 74.

23. SWIMMING POOL.

A scheme was prepared in 1947 by the Engineer & Surveyor for the installation of a filtration plant at the Swimming Pool but in view of the present limited area of the Pool and necessity for restricting capital expenditure as much as possible this scheme was postponed indefinitely, and a decision made to provide an up-to-date sterilization apparatus and to adopt the "Break Point" system of chlorination. During 1948 Break Point chlorination was installed at the baths by Messrs. Wallace & Turnman, Ltd., and which resulted in very marked improvement in quality and purity of water.

24. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

The 24 cowsheds and 22 milk shops in the area have been systematically inspected, 247 visits and inspections being made. Samples of milk taken were examined by the Public Health Laboratory at Exeter, with the following results:-

<u>Description of milk.</u>	<u>No: of samples.</u>	<u>Passed Accredited standard.</u>	<u>Failed.</u>
Ordinary	38	32	6
1st Repeat	5	3	2
2nd Repeat	2	1	1
3rd Repeat	-	-	-
4th Repeat	-	-	-

The supervision for production of all milks is now the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

(i) Unsound Foods. Visits were paid to meat shops, cooked meat shops, fish shops and catering establishments where food is sold or prepared. Visits were also paid to the provision stores and the amount of food surrendered as unfit for human consumption during the year was 1 ton. 17 cwt. 3 qrs. 23 lbs. The number of inspections made under this heading was 1,215.

(c) Ice Cream.

During the year, 64 samples of ice cream were taken from manufacturers in the district for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory, and the results were as follows:-

Grade I	-	27
Grade II	-	20
Grade III	-	8
Grade IV	-	9

The results were not always as satisfactory as they might have been, nevertheless the result of each sample was communicated to the respective producer so that he should know if he was maintaining a sufficiently high standard of cleanliness.

There were instances where the cause of the trouble could not be located without checking the whole plant and taking samples of the product at different stages until the cause was ultimately found. Such investigations take up a lot of time, but the reward at the end is a perfectly satisfactory article of food, and I am indebted to Dr. Moore, the Director of the Public Health Laboratory at Exeter for his valuable assistance whenever a thorough investigation had to be made.

The producers showed willingness at all times to co-operate and were most anxious to have the fault located whenever samples did not come up to standard.

There were 255 visits and inspections paid to premises where ice cream was prepared or sold.

(d) Bakehouses.

61 visits were paid to bakehouses in the district during the year, and in the few cases where minor defects were noted action of an informal nature was all that was required to put things right.

25. RATS AND MICE.

General. During the year there was a slight increase of complaints regarding rats and mice, all of them being dealt with either by the occupier or the Council. Most of the complaints were from private houses infested by mice.

Sewer Rats. As requested by the Ministry of Food a test was made of the sewers for sewer rats from 7th June, 1949 to 16th June, 1949, 10% of the total manholes were treated and 104 baits laid. As two consecutive "no takes" were recorded on alternate days for each manhole baited the sewer system was considered to be free from rats.

Council Property. During the year 2 treatments have been carried out at King George V Ground, Refuse Tip and the Depot, and these properties, at the moment, appear to be reasonably free from infestation.

Withycombe Brook. A complete treatment was made from end to end and follow-up treatments made to clear any residual infestation.

During the year 440 visits were made and it is estimated that a total of some 1,000 rats and mice have been exterminated.

26. SHOPS AND OFFICES.

During the year 191 premises were inspected under the Shops Act, 1934, and found to be satisfactory.

27. HOUSING.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects.....	78
Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	243
Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects	
reasonably fit for human habitation.....	76
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence	
of informal action.....	75

NO STATUTORY ACTION WAS FOUND NECESSARY DURING THE YEAR.

28. HOUSING OFFICER'S REPORT.

"I am pleased to report that it was possible to accommodate 86 Families in new Council Houses built on the Marpool Housing Estate during the year 1949, this number together with those occupied during 1948 make a total of 116 new Council Houses let to tenants on the Seymour Road and Marpool Housing Estates up to the end of 1949.

There are also still 60 houses under requisition in which 127 families are accommodated.

With the exception of those applicants who are already residing in houses (but who would like to remove to a new Council House for one reason or another) I am very pleased to report that we have dealt with all the larger families who were living under deplorable conditions.

The Department has been inundated with requests for houses and the number of persons coming to the office for information regarding accommodation has not eased off by any means. So soon as it becomes known that a few houses are to be let the unfortunate applicants who have not yet been catered for come rushing in to know how much longer they have to wait.

Reports received from the tenants of requisitioned properties regarding repairs etc. have been numerous, these are promptly passed on to the Engineer and Surveyor's Department and action is usually taken immediately to put the matter right, it is very seldom indeed that the tenant has to complain that the matter has not been attended to within a reasonable time.

During the year there have been less complaints in relation to the behaviour of tenants in requisitioned properties, this I think is entirely due to the very able manner in which Mrs. Ellett the Housing Investigating Officer carries out her duties when making her frequent calls to these properties.

The following figures will give some idea of the work done at the Housing Office during the year:-

Number of persons interviewed.....	2,148
Number of visits and investigations.....	420
Number of applications received during 1949.....	247
Number of applicants housed in New Council Houses during 1949...	86
Number of "Live" applications now on the Files (excluding tenants in Requisitioned Properties).....	538

I am extremely grateful, to the Council and The Housing Committee for the way in which they have helped to make the work as easy as possible by accepting the decisions made by the Sub-Committee, to the Chairman of the Housing Committee and the Sub-Committee for their very sincere and sympathetic help and for the hours they have spent doing their best to aid these unfortunate people, and to all the Officers and Staff for their assistance at all times."

29. FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect-ions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4,5 and 6 are to be enforced by local Authorities.	31	34	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	55	52	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises).	-	-	-	-
Total	86	86	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness					
Overcrowding					
Unreasonable temperature					
Inadequate ventilation					
Ineffective drainage of floors					
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	1	1			
(b) Unsuitable or defective					
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act not including offences relating to Outwork.					
Total	1	1			

